Ventriloquist, shadowgraphist, magician, film exhibitor.

Frank Cane started out performing in Melbourne and regional Victoria in the early 1900s, initially playing community events and social functions before turning professional. Active well into the 1920s Cane also often doubled-up as the shadowgraphist Kavello and occasionally worked a magic/mystery act (under his own name). It was as a ventriloquist (with his "partner" Curly) that he was best known by Australian audiences, however. Cane also briefly ran his own picture house in Yarraville (1914) and operated a vaudeville agency in Melbourne (1916-1920). Among the many companies and circuits he worked with were: Harry Clay (1920), K-Nuts (1921), Fullers' Theatres (1922), Copeland and Cole (1924), George Drew's New South Wales Western Line circuit (1925).

- See also: Eastern Vaudeville Agency • White-Cane Agency

- Cane was based out of Sydney for around five years beginning 1920, apart from some 12 months touring New Zealand (1923-24). He is known to have still been performing as late as 1930. From around 1922 he appears to have been working with a dog named "Bluey." Cane was also briefly in partnership with Sydney booking agent James H. White (ca. 1922-23).

- As the shadowgraphist Kavello (often spelled Kavelio), Cane created mini-dramas and comedy sketches by throwing shadows of puppets and other objects on a screen. Some reviews from 1919 onwards indicate that the act was in colour.

- A racehorse named Kavello was active during the mid-1910s.

1905

*Prahan Chronicle* (Melbourne) 29 July 1905, 3.

1907

Yea Chronicle (Vic) 7 Mar. 1907, 2.

1910

Brighton (Melb)

The Brighton troop of the Imperial Boy Scouts gave a scout display and concert in the Drill-hall on Tuesday evening, which was well attended, and proved an undoubted success. The camp scene, under the conductorship of Scout Master Boardman, was exceptionally good. The scouts proved themselves well up in first aid work, and added greatly to the enjoyment of those present. Miss Leatley's recitation was well rendered, whilst Miss James' song was effectively given to the accompaniment of Mr. Raymond. The humorous items of the evening were Mr. Frank Cane, ventriloquist, and the wire walkers, Walker and Scott. Mr. Short, the King's trumpeter, gave two instrumental selections, for which he was encored. The programme concluded with the National Anthem.

Brighton Southern Cross (Melbourne) 26 Nov. 1910, 4.
1912

Geelong (Vic)

PEOPLE'S CONCERTS.
These popular concerts were again largely attended on Saturday night. The management kept faith with their announcements, and presented an excellent programme. Mr. Arthur Douglass, the celebrated Scotch comedian, was a big hit, and had to respond to numerous encores. A novel act was introduced by Cave, who presented to his audience shadowgraphy. Miss Eva Staley was well received in her ballads, and Frank Cane was exceedingly clever in his ventriloquist act. Several thousand feet of pictures were screened during the evening, embracing cowboy, dramatic and comic subjects. The Geelong Harbor Trust Band played at intervals, and Mrs. Crellin was the pianiste.

Launceston (Tas)

MECHANICS HALL, LAUNCESTON.
Grand Opening Night of the STATE ENTERTAINERS
Under the Direction of the Tasmanian Amusement Co.
A Selection of Performers from the Best
Australia Can Offer.
KAVELLO. Shadowgraphist. Parodies are played and stories told with the fingers. An artist to his finger tips.
PULPULAR PRICES
Manager.............. T. Selwyn
Secretary and Treasurer... Geo. C. Gilham

STATE ENTERTAINERS.
On Saturday night, at the Mechanics' Institute, the State Entertainers, under the direction of the Tasmanian Amusement Company, will make their first appearance. A company of this description will fill a much-felt want in Launceston. The company has been formed amongst Launceston business and working men, and has at its head Mr. T. Selwyn and Mr. Geo. C. Gilham, who have had a long and varied experience in this business. Included in the company are many well-known performers on the Australian vaudeville stage, amongst whom are Kavello, shadowgraphist; Miss Cotty Greene, serio and dancer; Charles Black, actor vocalist; Miss Florrie Willis, dainty soubrette; Conway and Synnot, jugglers, direct from Rickards' circuit; Jock Norrie, inimitable Scotch comedian; Arthur Bates, the laughing comedian; Miss Amy Willis, serio and fancy danseuse; Frank Cane, novelty ventriloquist. Popular prices are advertised.

 Examiner (Launceston, Tas) 30 Dec. 1912, 1.

 Examiner (Launceston, Tas) 3 Jan. 1913, 8.


STATE ENTERTAINERS.

The State Entertainers gave another successful performance at the Lyceum on Saturday night to a good house. The programme was new and varied, and many of the turns literally "brought down the house." Joe Wallace kept the audience in a prolonged state of merriment, while Jock Norrie's Scotch effusion, "Inverary," provoked a storm of applause, which only subsided when the performer had consented to repeat it. One of the features of the evening was an exhibition of juggling by Messrs. Conway and Symnot; and Mr. Frank Cane, a clever exponent of ventriloquism, was responsible for uproarious laughter. The talented damsel Miss Cottie Greene rendered several effective dances, while Kavello, the shadowgraphist, excelled himself in that department. Mr. Will Francis and Mr. Choo Black, the Willis Sisters, and Miss Ruby Rubira were all valuable assets in the programme. The present programme will be presented nightly during this week.

Examiner (Launceston, Tas) 13 Jan. 1913, 6.
YARRAVILLE HALL.
EVERY SATURDAY NIGHT.
FRANK CANE'S PICTURES.

Beauty Competition
Have you voted for the prettiest girl yet?

Admission 6d.
Children 3d.

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LYRIC PICTURES
YARRAVILLE HALL

Some people, unfortunately, seem to associate bad shows and breakdowns in connection with the Yarraville Hall. But the order of the day has changed. The Lyric pictures now being shown by the new Company are advertised as "Equal to any. Better than most," and the Company earned the right to the title in the two- and three-quarter hours or pictures screened last Saturday evening for the first time. The pictures which were well lighted on the screen, and flickerless, included the Vitagraph star drama, "The tragedy in the

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Equal to Any Better than Most

Lyric Pictures
YARRAVILLE HALL
SATURDAY, SEPT. 19

IMPORTANT NOTICE!
The Management of this Entertainment would like to point out that they have no connection with any other previous show in this Hall.
We Intend to Screen only the BEST and LATEST PICTURES Obtainable.
DOUGLAS’ CONCERTS AND PICTURES.

The big picture to be presented at the Mechanics’ Hall to-night is entitled “Was She Justified?” Synopsis: Count Wm. Tyn, a happy-go-lucky officer of a crack cavalry regiment, meets Lydia Ronford, whom he marries. The Count has a mount in the steeplechase for the King’s Cup; he is winning but at the last hurdle his horse stumbles and throws him heavily. The Countess has watched the race, she rushes to the field to find her husband’s life in jeopardy. He recovers, but is a cripple for life. He pleads with his wife to give him his revolver. She tries to dissuade him, but at last accedes to his request. Placing the revolver near his bed, she bids him an affectionate farewell and retires from the room. A shot is heard. She rushes to the room, he is dead. She is arrested and accused of murder, but her innocence is proved and she is acquitted. The artists include Addie Tromp, pleasuring contralto; Frank Cane, clever shadowgraphist; and ventriloquist Charlie Tromp, boy comedian; Addie and Charlie Tromp, patter and harmonised choruses; West Geelong Band, Mr. T. E. Buich, pianist.
Geelong (Vic) 20 Mar. 1915, 4.

Melbourne

Kavello (only)

Age (Melbourne, Vic.: 1854 - 1954) 5 June 1915, 3.
Page 16

Record (Emerald Hill) 23 May (1915), 3.
See also: Eastern Vaudeville Agency entry.

Melbourne

TO-NIGHT,
Wilson Recreation Hall, Saturday, Feb. 12

Band Concerts
Cder Direction of the Brighton District Boys Band.
Sec. Orchestral Selections by the Brighton Orchestra (Mr. L. Thomas, Tuning).
Music may be received on payment of 4d. extra.
Band to take stand at Half-Past.

Daughter’s Strange Inheritance,
London Gazette, 347 Feet, Pathological.
1,000 feet, Live Drama.
2,000 feet, Vicar Comedy.
600 feet, Opera Comica.
1,000 feet, 1,000 feet, Vagabond Drama.

Those Bitter Sweets
Frank Cane, Novelties, Ventrolouguist. Featuring an entirely new and original act.

Sandringham Southern Cross (Brighton, Melbourne) 12 Feb. 1916, 5.

Leongatha (Vic)

The Leongatha Caledonian Society intend placing an excellent programme before the public in the Mechanics Hall on Wednesday evening next. A leading concert company has been engaged from Melbourne, which will include Mr. Jock Norrie, a Scotch comedian; Miss Rosa Dickinson, descriptive vocalist and dancer; Mr. Geo. Pagden and Miss Kitty Stanley, comedy sketch artists and humorists; Miss Ruby Cox, soprano; Mr. Frank Cane, ventriloquist; Miss Maisie Posner, monologue entertainer; Mr. Walter Hømgate, baritone; and Miss Vera Kent, pianiste. The entertainment will be a varied one, and a bumper house should greet the company on the 12th instant. Reserved seats at 2s 6d may be booked at Mr. Geo. Ford’s.

Great Southern Star (Leongatha, Vic) 7 Apr. 1916, 2.
The Merry Mتدacs.

Kurumburra (Vic)

The country towns seldom see a show of such excellence as this clever organisation, and a most enjoyable entertainment is in store for all of Gippsland, as the Merry Mتدacs have just commenced a tour which must interest all sections. On account of the inclement weather there was only a moderate attendance at their performance in the Mechanics' Hall on Tuesday evening, but the audience was not long in showing their appreciation. Every item was rendered by an artist of unusual reputation. The singing of Miss Florence Hartley proved to be the artistic success of the performance. This lady has a beautiful lyric soprano voice of fine quality and range, and she captivated her audience by a really dramatic rendition of "Angus Macdonald"—her sixth or seventh song. Miss Hartley will always be welcomed in Kurumburra.

Hal Brown, comedian, singer and juggler—surely a versatile fellow—excellent as a comedian, splendid as a singer and par excellence as a juggler—his juggling act is original and wonderful. Geo. Livingston, the jester of the company, is, without doubt, one of the best comedians and singers we have seen here. Miss Alice Walton added greatly to the performance by her singing of rag-time ditties. Norman Leslie, who is well known in Gippsland, is a new member of the company and he won unbounded applause. He was one of the many "hits" of the evening. Novelty in the form of a ventriloquism act in the first part and a shadowgraph act in the second, both contributed by Frank Cane, added spice to the entertainment. The pianist, Jack O'Kane, assisted materially to make the Merry Mتدacs show the artistic success that it is. The entire performance can be characterised as a musical treat, interspersed with refined humour, unique novelties, high class vaudeville and, best of all, absolutely free from vulgarity. We cheerfully recommend it to our friends along the line.

Another very enjoyable program was given last night.

Great Southern Advocate 25 May 1916, 3.

The Merry Mتدacs.

Mirboo (Vic)

"The Merry Mتدacs," a company which we notice is receiving unswerving praise in our exchanges throughout Gippsland, intend visiting here shortly. By what we can learn the company is on a class by itself—and far above the standard of the average troupe we get. This is what the Kurumburra Advocate said of the show on May 25th:

"The country towns seldom see a show of such excellence as this clever organisation, and a most enjoyable entertainment is in store for all of Gippsland, as the Merry Mتدacs have just commenced a tour which must interest all sections. On account of the inclement weather there was only a moderate attendance at their performance in the Mechanics' Hall on Tuesday evening, but the audience was not long in showing their appreciation. Every item was rendered by an artist of unusual reputation. The singing of Miss Florence Hartley proved to be the artistic success of the performance. This lady has a beautiful lyric soprano voice of fine quality and range, and she captivated her audience by a really dramatic rendition of "Angus Macdonald"—her sixth or seventh song. Miss Hartley will always be welcomed in Kurumburra.

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Gippslander and Mirboo Times (Vic) 8 June 1916, 2.
1917

Mr. and Mrs. Tom Boyle entertained a number of friends last Sunday evening at their house, “The Lonsdale Club,” on the occasion of the birthday of their son “Bob.” Several members of the Theatrical Employees’ Association contributed many harmonious items, whilst Mr. Frank Cane, with his ventriloquial doll, amused with his witticisms.

1918

Bright (Vic)

Big Evening Vaudeville Show

Special Engagement—
Norman Leslie (Comedian)
Frank Cane (Magic and Mystery)
Falvey Girls (Harmony Singers and Solists)
Jock Norris - (Australia’s Harry Lauder)
“Keverlo” (Novel Silhouettes of Men of the Hour)
and the Vaudeville and Revue Company of Talented Artists.

Box Plan now open at Delany’s.

Dr. S. O. Skewes, President.

E. J. Delany, Secretary.

Alpine Observer and North-Eastern Herald (Bright, Vic) 22 Mar. 1918, 2.

1919

Melbourne

EASTERN Vaudeville Academy available Rehearsals, Classes, Meetings, piano, day, night; reasonable, 48 Eastern-arcade, upairs.

EASTERN Vaudeville Academy teaches Magic, Juggling, Ventriloquism, Shadowography; apparatus made. Frank Cane, principal. Tel. 6466.

EASTERN Vaudeville Academy teaches Stage Dancing, Clog, Buck, Fancy, Toe, Acrobatics, Songs, Actions Taught. 48 Eastern-arcade.

EASTERN Vaudeville Academy teaches Tumbling, Acrobatics, Balancing; inspect Class To-night, E. Bush, instructor, 48 Eastern-arcade.

The Argus (Melbourne, Vic: 1845-1917) 12 July 1919.
**Hobart**

Phone TEMPERANCE HALL, Phone 792.

TO-NIGHT, FINAL NIGHT OF THE P. J. SIDNEY VARIETY COMPANY,

COMMENCING at 2.30 p.m.

TO-MORROW (SAT.), OCTOBER 21

Harry—LEEDS AND LE MAR—Trixy

The Most Brilliant Act on the Australian Variety Stage. Unquestionably Great.

MISS PEGGY WILSON.

Dainty Singer, Dancer, and Male Impersonator.

THE DARRAGHS.

The Mirthful Duo, introducing Margaret Darragh, the Singing Cellist.

"KAVELO."

Presenting Interesting Studies in Coloured Shadowgraphy.

MISS LYN FIELD.

Society Entertainer and Monologist.

FRANK BARBOUR.

Basso Vocalist.

EXTRA ADDED ATTRACTIONS.

Fred.—WEBBER AND SHAW—Gladys Brilliant Instrumentalist in Breezy Patter, Songs, and Comedy.

FRANK CAIN.

The Ventriloquial Humorist.

FREDDIE BROWN.

The Talking Juggler.

COMING SATURDAY, OCTOBER 30th, ERNEST PITCHER, The Big Mug.

DON'T FORGET.

SATURDAY MATINEE, at 2.30 p.m.

Plan at Findlay's. Book for To-morrow Night.

Prices: 3d, 2d. 1d (we pay tax).

N.B.—Phone for late Bookings: Central 792.


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**Launceston (Tas)**

MECHANICS' INSTITUTE

Direction ... ... ... ... ... ... ... C. W. WEBBER.

NEW ARTISTS.—COMPLETE CHANGE OF PROGRAMME.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 6.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 6.

LEEDS AND LE MAR, KAVELO, PEGGY WILSON, FREDDIE BROWN, LYN FIELD, FRANK CAIN, HAL SCOTT, EILEEN BARNESLEY, FRANK GRAHAM

Book your Seats at FINDLAY'S. Usual Prices.
AMUSEMENTS

MECHANICS’ INSTITUTE.

The new programme to be presented by the Webber Varieté Company on Saturday next at the Mechanics’ Institute should prove an excellent bill. All new artists are appearing, which are from the leading theatres in Sydney and Melbourne. Among these appearing are Leeds and Le Mar, a comedy duo, in their own revue, entitled “Plumduff Restaurant;” Frank Graham, basso vocalist; Peggy Wilson, dainty singer and dancer; “Black and White;” a special act in athletic surprises; Frank Cane and his pal “Curly;” in a ventriloquial act; Ravello in colored shadowgraphy; Eileen Burnsley, dramatic soprano; and Hal Scott, popular baritone. These in all should provide an excellent two and a half hours of good, clean amusement.

SIDNEY’S VARIETY ENTERTAINERS.

The new season of the entirely new company of variety entertainers under the management of Frank Sidney was auspiciously opened at the Mechanics’ on Saturday night, and augurs well for another successful week in Launceston. The programme, as the name of the company implies, is full of variety and charming novelties, abounding as it does in bright and catchy singing, sparkling humor, dainty dancing, and breathless moments with the jugglers and other novel entertainers. Peggy Wilson set the ball rolling and opened his with her breezy light humor, popular choruses, and sprightly dancing. Frank Graham, who is one of the finest basso vocalists heard in the city for many years, followed up with several solos from his extensive repertoire, including “Wonderful Mother;” and on his heels appeared “Ravello” with his original studies in colored shadowgraphy. This is a number, wholly unique, and brought forth the applause it undoubtedly merited. Eileen Burnsley, the talented dramatic soprano whose solos were so popular during the previous season, was again well received and among the numbers which she presented were “Hearts That are Free” and “Killerby.” A splendid reception was accorded Freddie Brown, the humorous talking juggler, who from the moment he appeared until he was reluctantly allowed to depart kept the audience in a series of laughing paroxysms. As a juggler he is exceptionally clever, and one of the bright spots in the programme. Hal Scott is always assured of a splendid reception by local audiences, and Saturday night was no exception. His interpretations of popular ballads, including “The Place Called Home,” were to say the least delightful.
1921

Bathurst (NSW)

National Advocate (Bathurst, NSW) 17 Jan. 1921, 2.

1922

Dungog Chronicle: Durham and Gloucester Advertiser (NSW) 8 Sept. 1922, 2.
1923


**Everyone's (Sydney)** 4 Apr. 1923, 27.

**Northern Advocate (Whangeri, NZ)** 5 Sept. 1923, 8.
The above pars have been sourced from *Australian Variety* (publication details yet to be ascertained)
State Aid Relief Fund

WERRIBEE CONCERT AN UNQUALIFIED SUCCESS

St. Augustine's Band set the ball rolling after the interval with two favorite airs. Mr. G. Hall was again well-received, his singing being popular with all in attendance. In the role of a magician, Frank Cane again delighted, and his efforts at revealing the various tricks were amusing; he was assisted on this occasion by a member of St. Augustine's Band. Dorothea and Audrey again danced and sang well, while the former also proved herself quite a versatile instrumentalist. Tom Browne's popularity as a comedian was still undiminished at the termination of his second appearance and he was the "star" turn of the evening. The Commune Na Feine Pipe Band and the four step-dancers brought to a close a very creditable performance.

Werribee Shire Banner (Vic) 25 Sept. 1930, 1.